

In the Claims

Kindly amend claim 13, cancel claims 14 and 15, and add claims 16-18, so that claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Original): A circuit for connection to a backplane connector interfacing with a bus, where the bus may carry a diffsense signal, and where the circuit may connect to a voltage source comprising:

a comparator, comprising a comparator output configured as an open collector;
a pullup resistor having two terminals, where one said terminal is connected to said comparator output and the other said terminal is connected to the voltage source; and

a programmable logic device having an interface, said interface electrically connected to said terminal of said pullup resistor connected to said comparator output, whereby a diffsense prime signal is generated by the combination of said comparator output and said programmable logic device interface.

2. (Original): The circuit of claim 1, wherein said comparator comprises:

a noninverting input connected to the backplane connector, wherein the diffsense signal is applied to said noninverting input;

an inverting input, wherein a substantially fixed voltage is applied to said inverting input; and a switchable connection to ground.

3. (Original): The circuit of claim 1, wherein said programmable logic device comprises:

a tri-state buffer having an input, an output and a control terminal, wherein said output of said buffer is connected to said interface and said input is connected to ground; and

transceiver disable logic connected to said control terminal of said tri-state buffer.

4. (Original): The circuit of claim 3, further comprising at least one conductor electrically connected to said transceiver disable logic, whereby at least one signal can be transmitted to said transceiver disable logic.

5. (Original): The circuit of claim 3, further comprising:
an input element connected to said output of said tri-state buffer; and
expander enable logic electrically connected to said input element.

6. (Original): The circuit of claim 5, further comprising an expander, wherein said
expander enable logic is electrically connected to said expander.

7. (Original): The circuit of claim 1, wherein said voltage source is at logic high
voltage.

8. (Original): The circuit of claim 7, wherein said voltage source is substantially at
five volts.

9. (Original): The circuit of claim 1, further comprising a voltage divider connected
to said inverting input of said comparator, wherein said voltage divider applies said
substantially fixed voltage to said inverting input.

10. (Original): The circuit of claim 1, wherein said substantially fixed voltage
applied to said inverting input of said comparator is substantially 2.4 volts.

11. (Original): The circuit of claim 1, further comprising a transceiver
electrically connected to said interface of said programmable logic device and to said
terminal of said pullup resistor connected to said comparator output.

12. (Original): A bus controller card for use with a backplane having a bus
controller slot connected to a bus, comprising:
a backplane connector, wherein said backplane connector is detachably connected to
said bus controller slot;
a controller electrically connected to said backplane connector, said controller
comprising
a comparator, comprising
a noninverting input connected to the backplane connector, wherein the
diffsenc signal is applied to said noninverting input,

an inverting input, wherein a substantially fixed voltage is applied to said inverting input, and
a comparator output configured as an open collector;
a pullup resistor having two terminals, where one said terminal is connected to said comparator output and the other said terminal is connected to the voltage source; and
a programmable logic device comprising
an interface electrically connected to said terminal of said pullup resistor connected to said comparator output,
a tri-state buffer having an input, an output and a control terminal, wherein said output of said buffer is connected to said interface and said input is connected to ground,
transceiver disable logic connected to said control terminal of said tri-state buffer,
an input element connected to said output of said tri-state buffer, and
expander enable logic electrically connected to said input element;
an expander electrically connected to said expander enable logic; and
a high voltage differential transceiver electrically connected to said interface of said programmable logic device and to said terminal of said pullup resistor connected to said comparator output, whereby a diffsense prime signal is generated by the combination of said comparator output and said programmable logic device interface.

13. (Presently amended): A method for controlling a device connected to a bus, comprising:

checking for a diffsense signal from the bus;
comparing the diffsense signal to a reference voltage;
generating a diffsense prime signal based on said comparing; and
selectively modifying said generated diffsense prime signal;
transmitting said selectively modified diffsense prime signal to the device; and
switching the device off in response to asserting said diffsense prime signal low.

Claims 14-15 (canceled).

16. (New): A method for controlling a device comprising:
determining whether a diffsense signal on a bus is within a voltage range associated
with a differential bus; and
selectively activating and deactivating a device based on the determination.

17. (New): The method according to claim 16 further comprising:
determining whether a diffsense signal on a bus is within a voltage range associated
with a high-voltage differential (HVD) small computer systems interface
(SCSI) bus.

18. (New): The method according to claim 16 wherein:
the device is a high-voltage differential (HVD) transceiver.